



**Prepared Remarks  
by Ashlee Bruner**  
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Macon Redistricting Town Hall  
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Good afternoon, Chairman Rich, Chairman Kennedy, and members of the Joint Redistricting Committees. My name is Ashlee Bruner, and I serve as Policy Advocate at the ACLU of Georgia. The ACLU of Georgia is a non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting the civil liberties of every Georgian, and the right to vote is one of the most sacred civil liberties we have as Americans. Voting should be easy for every citizen and each vote should count the same.

I have been personally impacted by precinct changes that have occurred without sufficient notice to voters and have notified neighbors without access to the internet who otherwise would have been disenfranchised. The redistricting process must be accessible to all, regardless of technology or language barriers. Fair maps are integral to ensuring that all voters of color have the same opportunities as white voters regardless of where they live and who they vote for.

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES**

The demographics of the Greater Macon area and the state of Georgia as a whole have changed tremendously in the last ten years. Preliminary data from the 2019 American Community Survey indicates that while the White voting age population in Greater Macon has decreased by 5%, Black voters have increased by 7%, Asian voters have increased by 27%, and Hispanic voters have increased by 13%. The voting age population of color overall has grown by 7%. The maps that are drawn during this redistricting cycle must account for the growth in our diversity and ensure that voters of color have a fair chance to elect candidates of our choosing.

**TRANSPARENCY & PUBLIC INPUT**

Fair maps also require that legislators conduct the redistricting process transparently and meaningfully consider the suggestions and concerns of citizens. Legislators must show their work every step of the way when drawing maps and should conduct public hearings *after* the full Census data is available to receive additional feedback from each judicial district. Transparency means that all meetings concerning redistricting and map drawing are done publicly with sufficient notice and access to all Georgians regardless of color, creed, or party.

These are a few of the standards that this committee should adopt to ensure that the redistricting process is open, democratic, and representative of the interests of all Georgians – preserving faith in our democracy and embodying the sacred ideal of “We, the People.”

Thank you for your consideration.